

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /108 W

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O P 301632Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2659

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP: CONSULTATIVE/LEVEL

REF: (A) LONDON 15567 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 233200, (C) GENEVA 7568,
(D) GENEVA 7547

1. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE US PROPOSED AGENDA WAS
QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY COMMENTS FROM SEVERAL DELEGATIONS,
MOST OF THEM ALONG THE SAME LINES AS MAXEY (REF A).

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ONLY THE GERMANS INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH US. EVEN

THE JAPANESE, WHO ARE IN VERY CLOSE AGREEMENT WITH US ON SUBSTANCE, WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE AGENDA. THEY CONSIDER IT UNDESIRABLE TO HAVE A DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF THE AGENDA, EITHER HERE (WHICH WE HAVE EXCLUDED) OR IN NEW YORK. THEY SHARE OUR INTEREST IN PROCEEDING WITH SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO TRY TO FORCE THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE TO TALK ONLY ABOUT THIS ISSUE. THEY, ALONG WITH THE BRITISH AND OTHERS, PART COMPANY FROM US IN OUR INSISTENCE THAT DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGETARY PROBLEM BE LIMITED TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES; THEY WISH TO COVER THE WHOLE UN SYSTEM.

2. THE JAPANESE ARE CONCERNED, AS WE ARE, ABOUT HOW MEETING WILL GO AND HOW IT WILL BE CONCLUDED. THEY STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE UK AND US CAREFULLY PREPARE THE MEETING IN ADVANCE. THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, SEO, IS GOING TO NEW YORK OVER THE WEEKEND AND OFFERED TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION NEXT WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 4. THEIR ASSESSMENT IS THE SAME AS OURS -- NAMELY, THAT IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT BUT THAT WITHOUT C/L MEETING THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER PROGRESS AND ENTIRE INITIATIVE WOULD DIE. THEY RECOMMEND THAT COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE US, GERMANY AND JAPAN, WHICH ARE THE MOST ARDENT SUPPORTERS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL NOT PRESS TOO HARD. IF AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED IN THE C/L, AT LEAST IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PARTICIPANTS TO REVIEW THE SUBJECT FURTHER AND TO DISCUSS IT IN GENEVA PRIOR TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

3. COMMENT: MAXEY'S IMPRESSION THAT THE US WANTS TO HOLD MEETING ON US TERMS OR NOT AT ALL (REF A PARA 5) IS WIDELY ECHOED HERE. OUR INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING A REVISED AGENDA HAS RAISED HACKLES AND WILL MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE TASK OF REACHING AGREEMENT AT THE OCTOBER 6 MEETING. FOR THE REASONS GIVEN IN THE TOUSSAINT/ABRAMS TELCON, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO TRY TO CANCEL OR POSTPONE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING. IF THE DEPARTMENT NEVERTHELESS DECIDES TO PROCEED ALONG SUCH LINES, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE OTHER GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS BE NOTIFIED IN THEIR CAPITALS.

4. OVERSTRESSING THE TERM "FRENCH PROPOSAL" WILL NOT MAKE THE TASK OF REACHING AGREEMENT ANY EASIER. THIS IS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF SEMANTICS TAKING PRECEDENCE OVER SUBSTANCE. THE TERM FRENCH PLAN CONJURED UP IN

THE MINDS OF MANY GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS: (A) ARBITRARY
BUDGET CEILINGS; (B) SANCTIONS; (C) ILLEGAL WITHHOLDING
OF CONTRIBUTION. WHILE THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AND A
FRENCH PAPER ARE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL GENEVA
GROUP MEMBERS TO BE BASIC TO THE OCTOBER 6 C/L
MEETING, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE TERM "FRENCH PROPOSAL"
BE AVOIDED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. INSTEAD WE SHOULD
CONCENTRATE UPON OUR TWIN OBJECTIVE OF AGREEING TO
SOME FORMULA FOR LIMITING THE SIZE OF BUDGET INCREASES
AND OF ACHIEVING AS LARGE A CONSENSUS AS POSSIBLE
AMONG GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS TO MOVE IN A CONCERTED
FASHION TO MEET THIS GOAL. END COMMENT. CATTO

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